12/1/71 - McClelland, in his office, D614-A, just before operation at Presbyterian Hospital (across hall from Perry)

When I asked him about statement he remembered it well and began by saying "it was a total mistake on my part". We discussed this for a while. He said that "Ginger" Jenkins had called the spot to his attention. I pointed out that it was his function to answer, not ask questions; that the asking was Specter's job, and that when he had said there was a wound in the left temple, Specter should have set the record straight. I also pointed out that Specter had asked him if he had said o anything he would like to change and he had not changed this. He was without explanation of the question or his failure to change if a "total mistake". He then shifted to this position: "I don't know that it wasn't and I don't know that it was," from which I shifted to "I presume it was a wrong assumption." He volunteered at some length about Garrison's men, describing Garrison as a psychopath, and seem proud that he had talked them out of calling him as a witness. When I asked him if he or anytone else had wiped the spot, presumably of blood, away, he said "No." And when I pointed out that in his later sworn testimony (6H48) Jenkins had testified to the existence of this left-temple wound, he had no explanation. McC was quite bitter about Garrison and Lane, but he was without complaint about Specter and the Warren Commission, who built and preserved an inaccurate record if this seeming retraction that is <u>not</u> a retraction is to be credited. He seemed also to be unaware of <u>this</u> strange juxtaposition, in which he was not critical of those he in effect now says caused the error but is quite critical of those who quote the record accurately.